

For life is all too short, dear,
 And sorrow is all too great,
 To suffer our slow compassion
 That tarries until too late.
 And it's not the thing you do, dear,
 It's the thing you leave undone,
 Which gives you the bit of heartache
 At the setting of the sun. —Selected.

Pastors and the Mission Work.

The relation that pastors sustain to the mission work of the churches is a topic that needs to be considered seriously in many places. We are not going to charge wholesale dereliction of duty upon pastors generally, as is too frequently done when the failures and shortcomings of churches are under review, as we are fully cognizant of the valuable work done at all times by faithful and conscientious pastors, who are endeavoring to fulfil the demands upon them in regard to missions and every other enterprise connected with the Kingdom of Christ. Our aim is to get pastors of every description, however, to examine more closely into their relations with the great world-wide operations which are intended to bring the glad tidings of salvation within the reach of all mankind. A man is highly honored who bears the title of under-shepherd for Christ and is made the overseer of his flock. He is the leader in that which concerns the immortal destiny of his fellow-men, and to him more than to any other human agency must the world in darkness look for the incoming of light to their benighted souls. He is not expected to go as a missionary, perchance, but he has it in his power to awaken the conviction among God's people that it is their duty to send the gospel to the heathen world.

A great many church members are totally ignorant of their duty in this respect. They need training and instruction, for with too many the mind is a perfect blank concerning the heathen, and they are content to leave the matter alone, while their hearts are untouched by the wretchedness and misery of the unsaved millions. They cannot feel for another's woe, unless the occasion calls for help in a material sense. To relieve bodily wants they would give cheerfully and liberally, but will ease their consciences by contributing nickels and dimes to further the work for which the Saviour of mankind freely gave His own life. Our churches are filled with men and women who are acting in this way. Pastors know this fact better than any other class of men, and many of them are largely responsible for the ignorance and indifference which prevails in our churches concerning the duty of every Christian to send the gospel on its mission of love and mercy to a dying world. Once a year is not enough to break the crust of ignorance and sweep away the habitual indifference controlling the lives and conduct of such Christians. Constant instruction from the pulpit, coupled with personal appeals to the unthinking and the reluctant, will be needed in many instances to awaken the conviction that they are really concerned in the work of missions.

We believe that there is needed an intense and wide-spread awakening among the pastors as to the real condition of their people, and with the beginning of the new year, it is an appropriate season to urge an investigation of this matter. Is there a pastor in all the land who knows just what every member believes in regard to missions? Such as give freely and intelligently to the various departments of mission work are known, of course,

but these "are few and far between." The majority, in nine-tenths of our churches, do not express themselves with much distinctness, and they are drifting along without any clear convictions on the subject, or else they are secretly cherishing the most heretical views as to their duty. We respectfully submit that the pastors are in duty bound to correct the evil, whether it appears in the one form or the other, if it lies within their power.

Let us commend to the pastors the following extract from an unknown writer, which puts the question strongly as to their relation to missions, and gives most excellent reason for their taking the lead in this work:

"We are persuaded, and recent intimate contact with the churches confirm the impression, that what is now imperatively needed is *that every pastor shall regard himself as the representative of missions in his own congregation*; shall take pains to inform himself of the wants of the world-wide field; shall familiarize himself with the history and biography of missions, and instruct, arouse and educate his own people on the subject. The pastor is the natural organ of sympathetic connection between the Boards and the church. His advocacy costs nothing but a little sympathetic labor. His flock will hear and follow his voice while they will flee from strangers. His appeals impress his own people as unselfish, unofficial and genuine, while they may sometimes think the official representative is perfunctory, and, like other specialists, prone to over-estimate the comparative importance of his own work.

"After no little observation we are prepared to affirm that no outside appeals, however powerful, can accomplish a tithe of the lasting influence of a pastor who is full of intelligent zeal for missions, and that in every case where a local church is found to be a leader in missionary activity and liberality such a pastor is now or has been at its head. Give the church such men to instruct and inspire its members, and there will be an end of debts and deficiencies in the Boards; missionary secretaries will be left to do their proper work, to act as the channels of communication between the churches and the mission fields, while the pastors themselves shall become a grand body of home secretaries, supplying the channels of communication between the churches and the Boards."

The ideal church of the future will never need an appeal from a missionary secretary, but will furnish its full quota under the inspiring leadership of an ideal pastor.—*Baptist Courier*.

A Pentecostal Day in Ongole.

REV. PHILIP M. JOHNSON.

By the grace of God it is my privilege to report good news from Ongole. Dec. 14 was the day of the Ongole quarterly meeting, and we had an unusually large attendance. Hundreds of anxious souls came seeking food for growth in grace and in the knowledge of Him of whom they had heard as their great Deliverer. As usual, Dr. Clough gave them an earnest and eminently helpful sermon, after which the sacred emblems were taken in commemoration of the death of their newly-embraced Saviour.

How thrilling a sight to see the hundreds so recently from idolatry now rejoicing in a living Saviour! But still they come—still they seek the healing Fountain. The greater part of the afternoon was spent in the examination of those asking baptism. At five minutes to five Dr. Clough entered the water and began baptizing, while the multitude around stood waiting the sacred or-